

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 238244

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TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

S E C R E T STATE 238244

NODIS

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TAGS: PFOR, MASS, PK, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH AZIZ AHMED

1. SUMMARY. THE SECRETARY MET WITH AZIZ AHMED IN NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 30. THEY DISCUSSED MILITARY SUPPLY QUESTIONS, INCLUDING USG DECISION TO PROVIDE SOME TOW MISSILES FOR TRAINING PURPOSES. AHMED RAISED GOP CONCERN REGARDING SOVIET AND INDIAN INTENTIONS. HE ALSO DISCUSSED PROBLEMS RELATING TO THE TARBELA DAM. END SUMMARY.

2. THE SECRETARY MET WITH PAKISTANI MINISTER OF STATE AZIZ AHMED IN NEW YORK ON SEPTEMBER 30. AHMED WAS ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADORS YAQUB AND AKHUND AS WELL AS PAKISTAN EMBASSY DCM RIZA. ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON AND ROBERT OAKLEY FROM THE NSC STAFF SAT IN.

3. THE SECRETARY INFORMED AHMED THAT USG WILL SUPPLY
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 238244

PAKISTAN WITH 24 TOW LAUNCHERS AND 450 MISSILES TO PERMIT

A TRAINING PROGRAM TO GET STARTED WHILE AWAITING DELIVERY OF THE FULL PROCUREMENT. WHILE STRESSING WE WANT TO BE HELPFUL AND WANT TO SEE PAKISTAN STRONG TO DETER ATTACK, SECRETARY EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF STARTING SLOWLY ON OUR NEW MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP, CONCENTRATING ON WEAPONS WHICH CAN REASONABLY BE DESCRIBED AS DEFENSIVE.

WHEN AZIZ AHMED STATED THAT THE PAKISTANIS WANTED ABOUT 110 A-7'S, THE SECRETARY OBSERVED THAT THIS AIRCRAFT HAS A VERY LONG RANGE AND IS AN ATTACK PLANE. THE SECRETARY ALSO SUGGESTED THAT NO PUBLICITY BE GIVEN TO THE TOW DECISION OR TO THE INVITATION EXTENDED TO AIR MARSHAL KHAN.

4. AHMED SAID THAT THE GOP HAD BEEN VERY CAREFUL IN COMPILING ITS LISTS OF EQUIPMENT NEEDS. HE APPEALED FOR DELIVERY OF WEAPONS "OFF THE SHELF" TO FILL URGENT GOP DEFENSIVE REQUIREMENTS. IN REPLY, THE SECRETARY NOTED THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS WHICH SUCH RAPID DELIVERIES RAISE FOR OUR OWN ARMED SERVICES. HE SUGGESTED THAT THIS COULD BE DISCUSSED DURING THE VISIT OF THE PAKISTANI SUPPLY TEAM IN OCTOBER.

5. AHMED SAID THAT EXPLANATIONS GIVEN BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT OF THE THREAT AGAINST PAKISTAN EXPRESSED BY ITS AMBASSADOR IN KABUL WERE NOT CONCLUSIVE AND WORRISOME TO GOP. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN MOSCOW HAD EXPRESSED "SURPRISE" THAT THE GOP WOULD CREDIT SUCH A STATEMENT, BUT WHEN THE PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR ASKED ABOUT THE SOVIET POSITION ON THE DURAND LINE AN MFA SPOKESMAN SAID HE WAS NOT "EMPOWERED" TO DISCUSS THE MATTER. AHMED SAID THAT THE GOP FEARED AN INDIAN ATTACK, SUPPORTED BY THE USSR AND AFGHANISTAN, IN NOVEMBER OF THIS YEAR, AND IF NOT THIS YEAR, THEN NEXT. PAKISTAN HAD TO ASSUME IT WOULD NEED TO FIGHT A TWO-FRONT WAR WITHOUT HELP SINCE, WHILE IRAN WOULD WANT TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE, IT WOULD BE NEUTRALIZED BY THE USSR, AND PAKISTAN HAD HAD NO REPLY TO ITS QUERIES TO PEKING AS TO WHAT CHINA WOULD DO.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 238244

6. THE SECRETARY REPLIED THAT WE WOULD TAKE A GRAVE VIEW OF SOVIET MACHINATIONS AND THAT THE GOP CAN BE CERTAIN THE SOVIETS UNDERSTAND THIS. NOTING THAT FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN WOULD BE IN WASHINGTON THE FOLLOWING WEEK, HE SAID HE WOULD TELL CHAVAN THAT ANY INDIAN PRESSURE ON PAKISTAN WOULD RUIN INDIAN EFFORTS AT FRIENDLIER RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.

7. AHMED REPORTED THAT ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS WITH THE
TARBELA DAM WOULD NECESSITATE FURTHER REPAIRS AND ANOTHER
LOSS OF IRRIGATION WATER AVAILABLE FOR THIS YEAR'S CROPS.
HE SAID PAKISTAN REQUIRED ONE MILLION TONS OF PL 480
WHEAT BEFORE THE TARBELA PROBLEM AROSE, BUT WOULD NOW
NEED MORE. THE SECRETARY NOTED THAT OUR PLANNING FIGURE
WAS 500,000 TONS. HE SAID WE WOULD REVIEW THE PROBLEM AND

SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE. KISSINGER

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